WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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MONMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1952.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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Council Offices,
18, St. James Street,
Monmouth.

September, 1953.

MONMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Mayor. — Mr. Alderman B. Partridge, J.P.

Deputy Mayor. — Mr. Alderman N. C. Elstob, M.A., J.P.

ALDERMEN:

Mr. S. H. Bowen, J.P.

Mr. C. Hancocks.

COUNCILLORS:

Mr. B. Breakwell.

Mr. D. Cowles.

Mr. R. A. Dodds.

Mr. R. H. George.

Mrs. V. M. Griffin.

Mr. T. J. Griffiths.

Mr. R. Hook.

Mr. J. P. K. Rennie.

Mr. G. E. Smith.

Mr. G. W. V. Sterrett.

Mr. R. P. B. Thomas.

Mr. E. I. Willis.

Town Clerk - R. Wallis, A.I.M.T.A.

Public Health Committee.

Chairman - Mr. Councillor G. E. Smith.

Mr. Alderman C. Hancocks.

Mr. Councillor R. A. Dodds.

Mr. Councillor R. H. George.

Councillor Mrs. V. M. Griffin.

Mr. Councillor T. J. Griffiths.

Mr. Councillor E. I. Willis.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health - E. N. Dowell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector - W. J. H. Biddle, M.I.Mun.E., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Borough of Monmouth.

18, St. James Street,
Monmouth.

TELEPHONE 122.

September, 1953.

To:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Monmouth.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

The health of the Borough is satisfactory. The number of births is increasing and the number of deaths decreasing.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. N. DOWELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	7,101.

Population.

Estimated mid-year population. On last year's figures this shows an increase of 60.	5,748
Number of Inhabited Houses.	1,889
Rateable Value (31st March, 1952)	£29,658
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£112 17s. 8.79d.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.	50	48	98
Illegitimate.	1	2	3

In 1950 and 1951 the total number of live births was 84.

Still Births.			
Legitimate.	2	1	3

In 1950 there was no still births. In 1951 there was 1.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.	2	1	3

The following gives a list of infants deaths under 1 year of age, giving age at and cause of death:-

(i) Male. 1/12 yr. 1. a. Cholaemia.
b. Cirrhosis of liver.
c. Congenital Syphilis.

(ii) Male. 1/12 yr. 1. a. Dehydration.
b. Thrush buccal and oesophageal.

(iii) Female. 7/12 yr. 1. a. Terminal convulsions.
b. Kernicterus.
c. Erythroblastosis.

In 1951 there were 5 deaths of infants under 1 yr.

DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths.	30	39	69.

There were 81 deaths in 1951, 45 males and 36 females. Although there has been a fall in the total number of deaths, the greatest fall has been for males. There were 2 deaths attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 to Malignant neoplasm of lung. Eleven deaths were att ributed to Coronary disease. As in 1950 and 1951 there were no deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Abortion.

Of the total deaths 47 were 70 yrs. or over at the time of death.

Table II. gives a classification of the causes of death and the number attributed to each cause.

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY:

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Of the children born in the years 1952, 1951 and 1950, at the end of the year, only 1, 25, and 36, were immunised. This is a low percentage of the number born in these years. During the year 5 of the 7 schools in the Borough were visited and 359 children were given a booster dose and 108 were immunised for the first time.

Scarlet Fever.

4 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified.

Measles.

57 notifications were received and of these 26 were in the age-group 5 - 9 years. There were 4 notifications in 1951.

Whooping Cough.

There were 8 notifications.

Poliomyelitis.

No notifications were received. There was a nil return in 1951.

Tuberculosis.

The following were the notifications of new cases received during the year:-

(i) Female - age 10 yrs. Lungs.

(ii) Female - age 22 yrs. Lungs.

(iii) Male - age 18 yrs. Lungs.

(iv) Male - age 12 yrs. Lungs.

(v) Female - age 27 yrs. Lungs.

(vi) Female - age 37 yrs. Lungs.

(vii) Female - age 38 yrs. Lungs.

(viii) Female - age 11 yrs. Lungs.

(ix) Female - age 16 yrs. Lungs.

(x) Male - age 16 yrs. Lungs.

During the year 1951 one case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

There were 2 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Mantoux Tests of School leavers.

During the year 3 of the schools in the Borough were visited in order to Mantoux Test children of ages 14 and 14+ years. Of the 213 who received the test 87 were positive and 126 were negative.

Mass Radiography Unit.

The Unit visited Monmouth from the 26th - 30th May, 1952. The following are the results of this visit:-

(i) Total number of persons examined - 1,179.

(ii) Total number found to be abnormal - 46

(iii) Classification of abnormal cases.

(a) Definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis - 2

(b) Needing observation for Pulmonary Tuberculosis - 11

(c) Other abnormalities of chest - 33

Tuberculosis.(cont.)

The Unit made another visit to the Borough in November for the purpose of examining school leavers, 234 were examined and of this number all were negative with the exception of 2; the latter failed to return for a large film. Arrangements are being made for these children to be examined by the Chest Physician.

It is hoped by these means to reduce the number of new notifications in the district.

Deaths in Monmouth M.B. 1952.

	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	2	
Syphilitic disease.	1	
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	1	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast.		1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	2	4
Diabetes.		1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	3	7
Coronary disease, angina.	7	4
Other heart disease.	3	5
Other circulatory disease.	5	11
Bronchitis.	2	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		1
Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1	3
All other accidents.		1
ALL CAUSES.	30	39

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED. AGE GROUPS.							
	Under 1 yr.	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 and over.	Total.
Diphtheria.								
Scarlet Fever.		2	1	1				4
Enteric Fever.								
Pneumonia.								
Puerperal Fever.								
Cerebro-spinal Fever.								
Acute Poliomyelitis.								
Enceph. Lethargica.								
Dysentery.		3	1	3				7
Puerperal Pyrexia.								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.								
Measles and German Measles.	1	10	16	26	4			57
Whooping Cough.	2	1	4	1				8
TOTALS.	3	16	22	31	4			76

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The main water supply of the town is supplied by the Wales Gas Board, Monmouth Gas & Water Undertaking. This supply has been regularly examined:- seventeen samples were taken and proved satisfactory.

Four samples were taken from other supplies, three were unsatisfactory.

The Watery Lane district is still without a main supply and the Council are now awaiting a report of the Welsh Office of Local Government and Planning on the scheme submitted to them.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Four new connections have been made.

Rivers and Streams.

Pollution is very slight.

Closet Accommodation.

There are 1,751 premises with Water Closet accommodation of which 1,480 are on main drainage and 271 are served by cesspools and septic tanks.

Public Cleansing.

The area of collection for house refuse remains the same as for previous years.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

	Inspections.	Informal Notice.	Formal Notice.	Complied With.
Housing.	15	2	-	2
Bakehouses.	28	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses.	Daily.	-	-	-
Infectious Disease.	4	-	-	-
Nuisances.	138	16	-	16
Disinfections.	5	-	-	-

Shops. No action.

Camping Sites. There are three sites licensed.

Smoke Abatement. No action.

Swimming Pools. None are open to the general public.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(a)	Number of Council Houses infested.	1
	Number of Other Houses infested.	1
(b)	Infested houses sealed and fumigated.	2
(c)	Belongings of tenants removed and fumigated.	-

Schools.

All schools are on the main sewerage system, and all schools are connected to the main water supply.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Samples of milk sent for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods.

During the year 13,819 lbs. meat and 7,593 lbs. edible offal were condemned.

8,221 carcases were inspected.

The following other foods were destroyed:-

393 lbs. meat.
117 tins meat.
52 tins fish,
281 tins fruit.
229 tins vegetables.
3 jars preserves.
248 containers of manufactured foodstuffs.
1½ lbs. cheese.
1 cwt. rice.
30 lbs. biscuits.
94 packets of cake mixture.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	583	72	698	6227	641
Number inspected.	583	72	698	6227	641
All diseases except Tuberculosis-					
Whole carcases condemned.	4	8	15	50	14
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	224	34	3	748	61
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tb.	39%	58%	2.5%	12.8%	11.7%

Carcases Inspected and Condemned. (cont.)

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcases condemned.	2	2	-	-	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	81	8	-	-	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tb.	15%	13.8%	-	-	2%

Food Poisoning Outbreaks. NIL.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 and 1951.

Seven premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, and eleven premises are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

Rodent Infestation.

A trained Operative is employed and during the year 262 inspections were made, 2 business premises and 65 private dwelling houses were treated.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

	Number of:-		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6, are enforced by Local Authorities.	10	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	32	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-	-
TOTAL.	42	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948 (cont.)

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found:- Found.	Remedied.	Referred H.M. Inspector.	Prosecutions instituted.
Want of cleanliness. (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) insufficient.	1	1	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	1	1	-	-

There are no Outworkers.